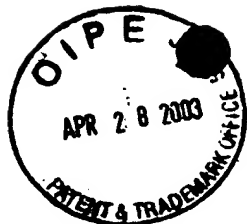


0041-0619-3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

#32 / Suppl
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9W05/02/03

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Ryuichi ISHIKAWA, et al.

: GROUP ART UNIT: 3729

SERIAL NO: 09/160,581 ✓

2nd RCE FILED: Herewith

: EXAMINER: CHANG, R

FOR: A METHOD FOR CUTTING
AN OPTICAL FIBER

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Suppl
AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of the claims incorporating any amendment is shown below.

Please cancel Claims 5-16 without prejudice, and add new Claims 17-25 as follows:

5.-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:
moving a cutting blade so as to transit a center portion of an optical fiber; and
preventing acceleration of said cutting blade after said cutting blade transits the center
of said optical fiber.

18. (New) A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein a
speed of movement of said cutting blade is always constant while cutting said optical fiber.

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